

Debunking the myths about auditors

Professional audits can improve units

By Chuck Helman*Staff Auditor, Mid-Atlantic Area Audit Office*

The two biggest myths concerning the Air Force Audit Agency have always been when the auditor briefs management on an audit and states, "We are here to help you," and the manager smiles and gladly states, "We are glad you're here."

Over the years, we have proven we really are part of the team. Long gone are the days of green eyeshades and bean counters. We are committed to quality by providing timely, value-added audit services to our customers. Working as a team, and with our customers, we will lead the way in helping to make a great Air Force even better. For example, the Auditor General of the Air Force recently selected the Mid-Atlantic Area Audit Office for the Office Excellence Award. This award was based on meeting goals in areas such as customer focus, professional development and process quality management.

The Mid-Atlantic Area Audit Office has auditors at Charleston, Moody, Langley, Pope, Shaw, and Seymour Johnson Air Force bases. In addition to performing reviews at these locations, they are also responsible for providing audit services to Air National Guard units in West Virginia, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia. There are a total of 37 personnel assigned to the Mid-Atlantic Area Audit Office, all with bachelor's degrees and more than 70 percent with additional graduate degrees or professional certifications.

The Air Force Audit Agency offers many services that you may not be aware of:

- Installation-level audits that provide you and your commanders with objective evaluations of your operations;
- Commander's Audit Program which are audits

Air Force Audit Agency**Value Statement**

"Motivated professionals helping to build a better Air Force by providing world-class audit service through dedication, innovation, and teamwork."

requested by wing commanders to address priority problem areas;

- Training Services which include management/internal controls and lessons learned advisory conferences;
- Team Participation where auditors serve as members on your teams providing insight and advice on specific subjects as needed;
- Centrally Directed Audits which are audits accomplished concurrently at multiple locations to identify systemic Air Force-wide problems; and
- Management Advisory Services, a tailored consulting service designed to define problems and obtain additional data.

The Air Force Audit Agency is an organization that offers advice, consultation, and solutions to problems. For example, staff auditors Gene Milligan and Steve McGinnis participated in consecutive Management Advisory Services that provided senior Air Force leaders and Charleston AFB commanders with the overall progress on the Y2K program. For auditors, the gratification comes when they know the organization is better as a result of their teamwork with you. Don't be afraid to ask for their services.

If you would like to know more about services offered by the Air Force Audit Agency, feel free to visit our web site at <http://www.afaaf.hq.af.mil/aboutafaaf.htm>.

Use summer sense during 101 Critical Days of Summer

By Dave Luttrell*Chief, Ground/Weapons Safety*

Memorial Day weekend marked the beginning of the 101 Critical Days of Summer. This enjoyable yet potentially dangerous time of year lasts until Labor Day (Sept. 6).

The 101 Critical Days of Summer are historically the most dangerous days of the year for the Air Force. If history repeats itself, 40 members of the Air Force family will lose their lives in off-duty mishaps during this year's 101 days. Most of these deaths will be the result of traffic-related mishaps; however, the second leading cause of death which has special significance in Charleston is drowning.

Most of the 101 Critical Days mishaps experienced by Air Force people were preventable. In many cases, if the individual involved in the accident had just slowed down or taken a second to think about what they were doing, the mishap might not have happened.

During the 101 Critical Days of Summer, each member of the base has a very important task – to do everything they can to help ensure the safety of friends, family and co-workers. It involves nothing more than putting on their safety hats and encouraging all of those around us to use their "summer sense." You can help change this year's 101 Critical Days of Summer statistics. I challenge all of Team Charleston to use their summer sense and make sure those around you are doing the same. Together, we can make a difference and help ensure every member of Team Charleston survives the 101 Critical Days of Summer.